

DR. DAVID MOORE LINDSAY



One of the most colorful personalities of early Wasatch County was Dr. David Moore Lindsay.

Dr. Lindsay's ancestors on his father's side had moved from Scotland to Ireland in 1642, and his father, George Lindsay, was a native of County Antrim. His mother was born Bessie Moore, the daughter of John Moore, J. P. Moore Lodge, County Down. David was the couple's first son.

He was educated privately and at the Royal Academical Institution at Belfast prior to entering Queen's College in that city in 1880. He began work on his medical degree at the University of Edinburgh in 1881, where he studied three years under Dr. Joseph Bell—the original Sherlock Holmes. He became interested in travel and adventure while at Edinburgh and often went to Scott's Port; ships fascinated him.

Upon learning one day that the "Aurora" was to sail for Greenland and needed a surgeon, he applied and was accepted. The ship sailed January 21, 1884, with the Greely Expedition. Dr. Lindsay subsequently served in the African Royal Mail Company, visited Sierra Leone and Nigeria in Africa, and parts of South America and India as well.

Returning to Ireland, he obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1886, of the Rotunda in 1887, and of the Royal College of Physicians in 1888.

Upon completion of these studies he visited America, coming west to Salt Lake City, where he learned that Wasatch County had no doctor. Retelling some of his experiences in 1945, he said:

"I recall my life in Heber as vividly as though I had just been there. It was in November, 1888, that I drove into Heber with Tom Watson on the stage coach. I fell in love with the little valley on sight. I decided to see the principal man of the county and was directed to Abram Hatch. After a long and pleasant visit I was assured I was wanted and needed, so began my life in Wasatch County."

In 1890, Dr. Lindsay brought his lovely little English bride, Sheila, to share his home. A son, David Crawford, was born to them in 1892.

Dr. Lindsay served the people well, and was loved and respected, but life as a general practitioner in horse-and-buggy days was arduous, so he decided to return to his studies to specialize in the eye, nose, and throat field of medicine. He studied under Professor Sloerk and Politzer in Vienna in 1893 and 1894. He was then appointed clinical assistant at the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital, London, and Sir Morell MacKenzie's Throat Hospital. He was elected a member of the Laryngological Society of London in 1894, a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1903, and a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons the following year.

Meanwhile, Dr. Lindsay had returned to the state he loved, to set up a practice in Salt Lake City, with offices in the Boston Building. He enjoyed many of his Heber friends as patients. He was appointed ophthalmic surgeon of St. Mark's Hospital in 1879, of the Rio Grande Western Railroad in 1898, and of the Utah Fuel Company in 1903. He was appointed head of the Utah Bureau of the Committee on Conservation of Vision of the American Medical Association in 1913.

In addition to his professional honors and appointments, Dr. Lindsay was author of two books, "A Voyage to the Arctic in the Whaler Aurora" (1911), and "Campfire Reminiscences" (1912, Dana Estes & Co., Boston). He was a member of the Sports Club, St. James Square, London, and held memberships in the Tennis, Alta, and Country Clubs in Salt Lake City. He was listed in "Men of Affairs in the State of Utah" (1914).

About 1924, Dr. Lindsay retired to his home in England to spend his remaining